



# PRESS RELEASE

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Media Contact: USDA, NASS, West Virginia Field Office, Charleston, WV 25305, or call  
1 (800) 535-7088 or E-mail at [nass-wv@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-wv@nass.usda.gov).

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### 2006 PEACH FORECAST FINAL 2005 PEACH and APPLE PRODUCTION

**WEST VIRGINIA** - The 2006 peach crop is forecast at 6,000 tons, up 9 percent, or 500 tons from the 2005 crop, and the same as the 2004 crop.

In 2005, utilized production totaled 5,300 tons, a decrease of 500 tons from 2004. Value of utilized production totaled \$3.8 million, an increase of 38 percent from 2004. Bearing acres were estimated at 950, down 20 acres from 2004, with an average yield of 5.79 tons per acre. The average price received per ton was estimated at \$724.00. This was an increase of \$246.00 from 2004.

Total apple production for 2005 was estimated at 87.0 million pounds (2.07 million, 42 lb. bushels), up 7 percent, or 6 million pounds from 2004. Utilized production totaled 83.0 million pounds, up 3 million pounds from 2004. Apples for fresh market totaled 16.0 million pounds, up 1 million pounds from 2004. Apples for processing accounted for 67.0 million pounds of the 2005 crop, 2 million pounds more than the 2004 crop.

The average price received for 2005 apples was 8.4 cents per pound, down 0.7 cents from 2004. Total value of utilized production was \$7.0 million for the crop, down \$240,000 from the 2004 crop. Fresh market apples brought 17.3 cents per pound in 2005, 1.0 cents more than 2004. Processed apples sold for \$127.00 per ton, \$17.00 less than in 2004.

The number of bearing acres of apples totaled 5,000 in 2005, unchanged from 2004. The yield per acre was 17,400 pounds, 1,200 pounds more than 2004. The yield was based on total production, which includes unharvested production and fruit harvested, but not sold due to marketing conditions.

**UNITED STATES** - The July 2006 forecast of U.S. peach production is 1.06 million tons, down 11 percent from 2005 and 19 percent below the 2004 crop. Half of the 28 Freestone peach estimating States expect increases in production from last year, while 12 States decreased their production from the previous season, and 2 States showed no change.

The California Clingstone crop is forecast at 380,000 tons, equal to the June 1 forecast but 21 percent below the 2005 crop. Rain during March and April along with below average temperatures have California growers concerned about their 2006 Clingstone peach crop. Warmer temperatures toward the latter part of April helped fruit growth. Early variety peaches reportedly have the best fruit set, while the late and extra late varieties appear to have lighter sets. Harvest began in the Kingsburg area on June 22, eleven days later than last year. Harvest is expected to begin in Yuba and Sutter Counties around July 15. Fruit sizes are reported to be excellent but quality is expected to be less than average due to gum and split pits.

The U.S. peach production in 2005 was estimated at 1.18 million tons, down 9 percent from 2004. Of this production, 1.15 million tons were utilized, down 7 percent from 2004. Value of utilized production totaled \$511.3 million, up 11 percent from 2004. The average price received for peaches was \$446.00 per ton, up \$71.00 from 2004.

Total apple production for 2005 totaled 9.9 billion pounds, down 6 percent from 2004. Utilized apple production totaled 9.8 billion pounds, down 6 percent from the 2004 level. Value of utilized production totaled \$1.89 billion, up 15 percent from 2004. Price per pound averaged 19.4 cents, up 3.5 cents. A total of 6.2 billion pounds were sold for fresh market, down 7 percent from 2004. There were 3.6 billion pounds for processing, down 4 percent from 2004.

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